

REMARKS

Favorable consideration of this application as presently amended is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3-14 and 16-17 are pending in the application, with Claims 1, 6, 11, 14, and 17 amended and Claims 2 and 15 cancelled by the present amendment.

In the Official Action, Claims 3, 4, 6-10, 12, 16 and 17 were withdrawn from consideration; Claims 1, 5, 11 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being rejected by Nazarathy et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,282,072, hereinafter Nazarathy); Claims 1 and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Atlas et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,963,352, hereinafter Atlas); Claim 14 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nazarathy; Claim 14 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Atlas; and Claims 2 and 15 were indicated as containing allowable subject matter.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter.

Independent Claims 1, 6, 11, 14, and 17 are amended to recite the allowable features of Claims 2 or 15. No new matter is added.

Accordingly, in view of the present amendment and in light of the previous discussion, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance and respectfully request an early and favorable action to that effect.

Respectfully submitted,

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 06/04)

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



James J. Kulbaski
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 34,648
Michael Monaco
Registration No. 52,041